

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Steven Thiel (#53,685) on 12/14/09.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

A). In claim 36, line 3, "a computer-readable medium" should be changed to "a computer-readable memory medium...".

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 2-5, 7-8, 10, 12-15, 17-18, 20, 22-25, 27-28, 30, 36-39 are allowed.

Independent claim 8, 18, 28 and 36 are towards a filtering method and recites "...dividing the digital image into a plurality of frames, each frame including a plurality of blocks, wherein each block of the plurality of blocks may be represented as a plurality of elements within a plurality of columns (m) and rows (n), where m and n are each two or more; filtering each element of each column of each block, wherein for a given mth column, weighting column m-1 25%, weighting column m 50%, and weighting column m+1 25%; filtering each element of each row of the block, where given an nth row, filtering further comprises weighting row n-1 25%, weighting row n 50%, and weighting row n+1 25%; and decimating a subset of the plurality of blocks within a certain frame of the plurality of frames based upon predetermined

Art Unit: 2621

criteria....” which is a feature that is not anticipated nor obvious over the art of record.

Dependent claims 2-5, 7, 10-, 12-15, 17, 20-, 22-25, 27, 30, and 37-39 are allowed for the reasons concerning the independent claims.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andy S. Rao whose telephone number is (571)-272-7337. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8 hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571)-272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Andy S. Rao
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2621

asr

Application/Control Number: 09/875,329

Page 4

Art Unit: 2621

/Andy S. Rao/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2621

December 16, 2009